



NOTICE

Public Meeting

May 10, 2004, 7:30 pm
Community Hall
Trimont, Minnesota

Draft Permit Available

For Trimont Wind Project
EQB Docket No. 03-72-LWECS-Trimont
In Jackson and Martin Counties

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will hold a public information meeting on the application by Trimont Wind I, LLC, to build up to a 100.5 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system in Jackson and Martin counties. The public meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, May 10, 2004, at the Trimont Community Hall. Staff of the EQB and representatives of the applicant will be at the meeting to describe the project and answer questions.

Project Description

The Trimont Wind Project (Project) is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprising up to 67 turbines with a nameplate capacity of 100.5 MW and associated facilities like access roads and power lines. The Project will be located in Jackson and Martin Counties, six miles west of Trimont, on approximately 22,400 acres in Kimball and Cedar Townships. The project is to be sited in the area surrounding Great River Energy's Lakefield Junction Generating Station, a 550 MW natural gas peaking plant. The project will be connected to the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Martin County Substation, located at the Lakefield Junction Generating Station. The turbine manufacturer is General Electric Company. The wind turbines will be 80 meters high at the hub and the blades will have a rotor diameter of either 70.5 or 77 meters. At the base of each turbine will be a "step-up" transformer. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables will also be installed.

EQB Site Permit Review Process

Trimont filed a site permit application for the 100.5 MW LWECS project on March 12, 2004, which the EQB Chair accepted on March 22, 2004. The EQB is reviewing the Trimont site permit application under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections

116C.691 - 116C.697) and the EQB Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the review requirements, the Chair will bring the record of this matter to the EQB Board for a final decision.

Public Comments

The Draft Site Permit for the proposed project is available on the EQB website at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=5208>.

Interested persons may comment on the Draft Site Permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments to the EQB, attention David Birkholz (address below). Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on May 26, 2004.

Project Contacts

The EQB Chair has designated David Birkholz of the Energy Facility Permitting staff as project manager to coordinate the EQB review and to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He may be contacted at 300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155, (651) 296-2878, or david.birkholz@state.mn.us.

Questions about Trimont's application can also be directed to Raimund Grube at (503) 796-7047 or raimund.grube@PPMEnergy.com.

Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing on a site permit application for a large wind energy conversion system. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with David Birkholz (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2004. The person requesting the public hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Chair shall order a contested case hearing if the Chair finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the EQB in making a final decision on the site permit application. The Chair may refer the request for a contested case hearing to the Board for a determination.

Other Background Information

Copies of the Trimont site permit application have been distributed to affected landowners and township, county and state officials. Copies of the Application and the Draft Site Permit are available for review at the Auditors' Offices in Jackson and Martin Counties and the city office at Trimont. The EQB wind permitting rules, the application and the Draft Site Permit are also available for review on the EQB website above.